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28289 7590 05/29/2008

THE WEBB LAW FIRM, P.C.
700 KOPPERS BUILDING
436 SEVENTH AVENUE
PITTSBURGH, PA 15219

EXAMINER

SCHARICH, MARC A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3611

DATE MAILED: 05/29/2008

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/563,782	06/29/2006	Wilhelmus Petrus Johannes de Kruif	3135-060045	3202

TITLE OF INVENTION: WHEELCHAIR AND OPERATING MEANS FOR USE IN SUCH A WHEELCHAIR

APPLN. TYPE	SMALL ENTITY	ISSUE FEE DUE	PUBLICATION FEE DUE	PREV. PAID ISSUE FEE	TOTAL FEE(S) DUE	DATE DUE
nonprovisional	YES	\$720	\$300	\$0	\$1020	08/29/2008

THE APPLICATION IDENTIFIED ABOVE HAS BEEN EXAMINED AND IS ALLOWED FOR ISSUANCE AS A PATENT. **PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS CLOSED.** THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS. THIS APPLICATION IS SUBJECT TO WITHDRAWAL FROM ISSUE AT THE INITIATIVE OF THE OFFICE OR UPON PETITION BY THE APPLICANT. SEE 37 CFR 1.313 AND MPEP 1308.

THE ISSUE FEE AND PUBLICATION FEE (IF REQUIRED) MUST BE PAID WITHIN **THREE MONTHS FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS NOTICE** OR THIS APPLICATION SHALL BE REGARDED AS ABANDONED. **THIS STATUTORY PERIOD CANNOT BE EXTENDED.** SEE 35 U.S.C. 151. THE ISSUE FEE DUE INDICATED ABOVE DOES NOT REFLECT A CREDIT FOR ANY PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE IN THIS APPLICATION. IF AN ISSUE FEE HAS PREVIOUSLY BEEN PAID IN THIS APPLICATION (AS SHOWN ABOVE), THE RETURN OF PART B OF THIS FORM WILL BE CONSIDERED A REQUEST TO REAPPLY THE PREVIOUSLY PAID ISSUE FEE TOWARD THE ISSUE FEE NOW DUE.

HOW TO REPLY TO THIS NOTICE:

I. Review the SMALL ENTITY status shown above.

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as YES, verify your current SMALL ENTITY status:

A. If the status is the same, pay the TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above.

B. If the status above is to be removed, check box 5b on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and twice the amount of the ISSUE FEE shown above, or

If the SMALL ENTITY is shown as NO:

A. Pay TOTAL FEE(S) DUE shown above, or

B. If applicant claimed SMALL ENTITY status before, or is now claiming SMALL ENTITY status, check box 5a on Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal and pay the PUBLICATION FEE (if required) and 1/2 the ISSUE FEE shown above.

II. PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL, or its equivalent, must be completed and returned to the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) with your ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). If you are charging the fee(s) to your deposit account, section "4b" of Part B - Fee(s) Transmittal should be completed and an extra copy of the form should be submitted. If an equivalent of Part B is filed, a request to reapply a previously paid issue fee must be clearly made, and delays in processing may occur due to the difficulty in recognizing the paper as an equivalent of Part B.

III. All communications regarding this application must give the application number. Please direct all communications prior to issuance to Mail Stop ISSUE FEE unless advised to the contrary.

IMPORTANT REMINDER: Utility patents issuing on applications filed on or after Dec. 12, 1980 may require payment of maintenance fees. It is patentee's responsibility to ensure timely payment of maintenance fees when due.

PART B - FEE(S) TRANSMITTAL

Complete and send this form, together with applicable fee(s), to: Mail **Mail Stop ISSUE FEE**
Commissioner for Patents
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INSTRUCTIONS: This form should be used for transmitting the ISSUE FEE and PUBLICATION FEE (if required). Blocks 1 through 5 should be completed where appropriate. All further correspondence including the Patent, advance orders and notification of maintenance fees will be mailed to the current correspondence address as indicated unless corrected below or directed otherwise in Block 1, by (a) specifying a new correspondence address; and/or (b) indicating a separate "FEE ADDRESS" for maintenance fee notifications.

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Note: A certificate of mailing can only be used for domestic mailings of the Fee(s) Transmittal. This certificate cannot be used for any other accompanying papers. Each additional paper, such as an assignment or formal drawing, must have its own certificate of mailing or transmission.

Certificate of Mailing or Transmission

I hereby certify that this Fee(s) Transmittal is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage for first class mail in an envelope addressed to the Mail Stop ISSUE FEE address above, or being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO (571) 273-2885, on the date indicated below.

(Depositor's name)
(Signature)
(Date)

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10/563,782 06/29/2006 Wilhelmus Petrus Johannes de Kruif 3135-060045 3202

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nonprovisional YES \$720 \$300 \$0 \$1020 08/29/2008

EXAMINER	ART UNIT	CLASS-SUBCLASS
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SCHARICH, MARC A 3611 280-250100

1. Change of correspondence address or indication of "Fee Address" (37 CFR 1.363).

- ☐ Change of correspondence address (or Change of Correspondence Address form PTO/SB/122) attached.
☐ "Fee Address" indication (or "Fee Address" Indication form PTO/SB/47; Rev 03-02 or more recent) attached. Use of a **Customer Number is required.**

2. For printing on the patent front page, list

- (1) the names of up to 3 registered patent attorneys or agents OR, alternatively, 1
 (2) the name of a single firm (having as a member a registered attorney or agent) and the names of up to 2 registered patent attorneys or agents. If no name is listed, no name will be printed. 2
 3

3. ASSIGNEE NAME AND RESIDENCE DATA TO BE PRINTED ON THE PATENT (print or type)

PLEASE NOTE: Unless an assignee is identified below, no assignee data will appear on the patent. If an assignee is identified below, the document has been filed for recordation as set forth in 37 CFR 3.111. Completion of this form is NOT a substitute for filing an assignment.

(A) NAME OF ASSIGNEE

(B) RESIDENCE: (CITY AND STATE OR COUNTRY)

Please check the appropriate assignee category or categories (will not be printed on the patent): ☐ Individual ☐ Corporation or other private group entity ☐ Government

4a. The following fee(s) are submitted:

- ☐ Issue Fee
☐ Publication Fee (No small entity discount permitted)
☐ Advance Order - # of Copies _____

4b. Payment of Fee(s): (Please first reapply any previously paid issue fee shown above)

- ☐ A check is enclosed.
☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
☐ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the required fee(s), any deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account Number _____ (enclose an extra copy of this form).

5. Change in Entity Status (from status indicated above)

- ☐ a. Applicant claims SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27. ☐ b. Applicant is no longer claiming SMALL ENTITY status. See 37 CFR 1.27(g)(2).

NOTE: The Issue Fee and Publication Fee (if required) will not be accepted from anyone other than the applicant; a registered attorney or agent; or the assignee or other party in interest as shown by the records of the United States Patent and Trademark Office.

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____
 Typed or printed name _____ Registration No. _____

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.311. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

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Determination of Patent Term Adjustment under 35 U.S.C. 154 (b) (application filed on or after May 29, 2000)

The Patent Term Adjustment to date is 0 day(s). If the issue fee is paid on the date that is three months after the mailing date of this notice and the patent issues on the Tuesday before the date that is 28 weeks (six and a half months) after the mailing date of this notice, the Patent Term Adjustment will be 0 day(s).

If a Continued Prosecution Application (CPA) was filed in the above-identified application, the filing date that determines Patent Term Adjustment is the filing date of the most recent CPA.

Applicant will be able to obtain more detailed information by accessing the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) WEB site (<http://pair.uspto.gov>).

Any questions regarding the Patent Term Extension or Adjustment determination should be directed to the Office of Patent Legal Administration at (571)-272-7702. Questions relating to issue and publication fee payments should be directed to the Customer Service Center of the Office of Patent Publication at 1-(888)-786-0101 or (571)-272-4200.

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

10/563,782

Applicant(s)DE KRUIJF, WILHELMUS PETRUS
JOHANNES**Examiner**

MARC A. SCHARICH

Art Unit

3611

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/4/2008.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 18-34.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with attorney Bryan P. Clark on 5/21/2008. *The application is amended as follows:*

This Examiner's Amendment adds *new* claim "34", thus a total of five (5) independent claims are now present in the application. The Commissioner for Patents is authorized to charge any fees which may be required to Deposit Account No. 23-0650.

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 18 is amended to:

-- 18. A wheelchair, comprising:

an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

carrying wheel drive means connected to said assembly[[:]], said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to at least one of said carrying wheels, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged within a hub of said at least one carrying wheel, and

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operating means for operating the drive means, wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and the operating means are directly connected to a wheel shaft received in a the hub of said at least one carrying wheel, wherein said operating means controls said at least one motor unit. --

Claim 21 is amended to:

-- 21. The wheelchair as claimed in claim 19, wherein the at least one operating member is adapted to undergo at least one change in orientation. --

Claim 22 is amended to:

-- 22. The wheelchair as claimed in claim 21, wherein the at least one operating member is adapted to undergo a first change in orientation for regulating a displacement speed of the wheelchair, and a second change in orientation for maneuvering of the wheelchair. --

Claim 23 is amended to:

-- 23. The wheelchair as claimed in claim 21, wherein the at least one operating member is displaceable between at least two extreme positions. --

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Claim 24 is amended to:

-- 24. The wheelchair as claimed in claim 21, wherein the at least one operating member takes an at least substantially tubular form and is axially rotatable through a determined angle of rotation. --

Claim 25 is amended to:

-- 25. The wheelchair as claimed in claim 21, wherein the operating means further comprise at least one sensor connected to the assembly for sensing ~~the~~ said at least one change in orientation of the at least one operating member. --

Claim 27 is amended to:

-- 27. The wheelchair as claimed in claim 18, ~~further wherein the operating~~ means comprise ~~comprising~~ a plurality of operating members, wherein the drive means are adapted for independent driving of a plurality of carrying wheels, ~~wherein and~~ and the operating members are each adapted to control a determined driven carrying wheel. --

Claim 31 is amended to:

-- 31. A wheelchair, comprising:

an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

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drive means connected to the assembly for driving at least one carrying wheel, said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to a carrying wheel, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged within a hub of a said carrying wheel for driving, and

operating means for operating the drive means, wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and ~~that~~ the operating means are directly connected to a wheel shaft received in a the hub of said at least one carrying wheel,

wherein the operating means controls said at least one motor unit,

wherein the operating means comprise at least one operating member for the user,

wherein the at least one operating member is positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and

wherein the at least one operating member is adapted to undergo a first change in orientation for regulating ~~the a~~ displacement speed of the wheelchair, and a second change in orientation for maneuvering of the wheelchair. --

Claim 32 is amended to:

-- 32. A wheelchair, comprising:

As an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

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drive means connected to the assembly for driving at least one carrying wheel, said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to a carrying wheel, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged within a hub of a said carrying wheel for driving, and

operating means for operating the drive means, wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and ~~that~~ the operating means are directly connected to a wheel shaft received in a the hub of ~~at least one~~ said carrying wheel,

wherein the operating means controls said at least one motor unit,

wherein the operating means comprise at least one operating member for the user, wherein the at least one operating member is positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit,

wherein the at least one operating member is adapted to undergo at least one change in orientation, and

wherein the at least one operating member is displaceable between at least two extreme positions. --

Claim 33 is amended to:

-- 33. A wheelchair, comprising:

an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

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drive means connected to the assembly for driving at least one carrying wheel, said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to a carrying wheel, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged within a hub of a said carrying wheel for driving, and

operating means for operating the drive means, wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and ~~that~~ the operating means are directly connected to a wheel shaft received in a the hub of ~~at least one~~ said carrying wheel,

wherein the operating means controls said at least one motor unit, and

wherein the operating means are adapted for wireless communication with the drive means. --

Please **ADD** new claim 34 as follows:

-- 34. A wheelchair, comprising:

an assembly of a chair unit for a user and a support base supporting the chair unit, wherein the support base is provided with a number of carrying wheels for carrying the assembly,

carrying wheel drive means connected to said assembly, said drive means being provided with at least one motor unit coupled to at least one of said carrying wheels, said motor unit at least substantially being arranged within a hub of said at least one carrying wheel, and

operating means for operating the drive means, wherein the operating means are positioned at least partially laterally relative to the chair unit, and the

operating means are directly connected to and at least partially encircle a wheel shaft received in the hub of said at least one carrying wheel. --

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The prior art cited on form PTO-892 relates to wheelchairs that are powered with electric type drive motors in or around the hub of the driven wheels of the wheelchair.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to MARC A. SCHARICH whose telephone number is (571)272-3244. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lesley Morris can be reached on (571) 272-6651. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-

Art Unit: 3611

free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service

Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-

9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

M.A.S. – 5/21/2008

/Marc A. Scharich/
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3611

/Lesley D. Morris/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3611